

CLAIMS

1. A method for adjusting power consumption in a device, the method comprising the steps of:

5 receiving a command to enter a low power mode; and
adjusting, in response to receiving the command, at least one operating mode of the device so as to enter a low power operating mode.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein in the adjusting step, the at
10 least one operating mode includes at least one of a quality of service setting, a vocoding ratio, a BER threshold that initiates background scanning, a frequency of monitoring other communications networks, a definition of a function key, an operating mode of a display, a resolution of a display, a sensor, a CPU clock speed, and an alert time.

15 3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
receiving a second command to exit the low power mode; and
adjusting, in response to receiving the second command, the at least one operating mode of the device so as to exit the low power operating mode.

20 4. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of preventing a user from changing the at least one operating mode while the device is in the low power operating mode.

5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of providing at least one status indicator for indicating at least one of an emergency situation and that the device is operating in the low power operation mode.
6. The method according to claim 1,
wherein the command includes a uniform resource locator, and
the method further comprises the step of presenting information associated with the uniform resource locator.
7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the adjusting step comprises:
presenting a user with a plurality of operating modes;
accepting an input from the user that indicates a selected operating mode that is chosen from the plurality of operating modes; and
placing the device into the selected operating mode.
8. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of continuing to operate the device after a battery energy level has fallen below a normal operating threshold.

9. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
monitoring an energy level of a battery;
comparing the energy level to a threshold;
transmitting an indication of the energy level to a central controller; and
5 providing an indication that the indication of the energy level has been
transmitted.
10. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
monitoring an energy level of a battery;
10 comparing the energy level to a threshold;
transmitting an indication of the energy level to a central controller; and
providing an indication of an estimated time of arrival of a replacement
battery.
- 15 11. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
monitoring an energy level of a battery;
comparing the energy level to a threshold;
transmitting an indication of the energy level to a central controller; and
transmitting a second indication upon replacement of the battery.
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12. The method according to claim 1, wherein the command to enter the
low power mode is initiated by a user of the device.

13. The method according to claim 1,
 wherein the command includes a receiver identification, and
 the method further comprises the step of determining if the receiver
identification matches an identification associated with the device.

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14. The method according to claim 13,
 wherein the receiver identification comprises a location description, and
 the determining step comprises comparing the location description to a
current location of the device.

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15. An electronic device comprising:
 a receiver for receiving a command to enter a low power mode; and
 a mode controller communicatively coupled to the receiver, the mode
controller being capable of adjusting at least one operating mode of the
15 device so as to enter a low power operating mode when the command is
received by the receiver.

16. The electronic device according to claim 15, wherein the at least one
operating mode includes at least one of a quality of service setting, a
20 vocoding ratio, a BER threshold that initiates background scanning, a
frequency of monitoring other communications networks, a definition of a
function key, an operating mode of a display, a resolution of a display, a
sensor, a CPU clock speed, and an alert time.

17. The electronic device according to claim 15,
wherein the receiver is further able to receive a second command to
exit the low power mode, and

5 the mode controller is capable of adjusting the at least one operating
mode of the device so as to exit the low power operating mode when the
second command is received by the receiver.

18. The electronic device according to claim 15, wherein the mode
10 controller prevents a user from changing the at least one operating mode
while the device is in the low power operating mode.

19. The electronic device according to claim 15, further comprising at least
one status indicator for indicating at least one of an emergency situation and
15 that the device is operating in the low power operation mode.

20. The electronic device according to claim 15,
wherein the command includes a uniform resource locator, and
the electronic device further comprises a display for presenting
20 information associated with the uniform resource locator.

21. The electronic device according to claim 15, wherein the mode controller is capable of:

presenting a user with a plurality of operating modes;

accepting an input from the user that indicates a selected operating

5 mode that is chosen from the plurality of operating modes; and

placing the device into the selected operating mode.

22. The electronic device according to claim 15, further comprising:

means for monitoring an energy level of a battery, comparing the

10 energy level to a threshold, and transmitting an indication of the energy level to a central controller; and

an indicator for indicating an estimated time of arrival of a replacement battery.

15 23. The electronic device according to claim 15, further comprising means for monitoring an energy level of a battery, comparing the energy level to a threshold, transmitting an indication of the energy level to a central controller, and transmitting a second indication upon replacement of the battery.

20 24. The electronic device according to claim 15, wherein in the low power operating mode, the electronic device continues to operate after a battery energy level has fallen below a normal operating threshold.

25. The electronic device according to claim 15, wherein the command to enter the low power mode is initiated by a user of the device.

26. The electronic device according to claim 15,

5 wherein the command includes a receiver identification, and
 the mode controller determines if the receiver identification matches an identification associated with the device.

27. The electronic device according to claim 26,

10 wherein the receiver identification comprises a location description, and
 the mode controller compares the location description to a current location of the device.

28. The electronic device according to claim 27, wherein the location
15 description comprises at least one of a tower identification, a network identification, a zip code, an area code and a time zone.

29. A computer program product comprising computer programming instructions for performing the steps of:

20 receiving a command to enter a low power mode; and
 adjusting, in response to receiving the command, at least one operating mode of the device so as to enter a low power operating mode.

30. The computer program product according to claim 29, wherein the adjusting step comprises:

presenting a user with a plurality of operating modes;

accepting an input from the user that indicates a selected operating

5 mode that is chosen from the plurality of operating modes; and

placing the device into the selected operating mode.

31. The computer program product according to claim 29, further comprising computer programming instructions for performing the step of
10 continuing to operate the device after a battery energy level has fallen below a normal operating threshold.

32. The computer program product according to claim 29, further comprising computer programming instructions for performing the steps of:

15 monitoring an energy level of a battery;

comparing the energy level to a threshold;

transmitting an indication of the energy level to a central controller; and

providing an indication that the indication of the energy level has been transmitted.

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33. The computer program product according to claim 29,
wherein the command includes a receiver identification, and
the computer program product further comprises computer
programming instructions for performing the step of determining if the receiver
5 identification matches an identification associated with the device.

34. The computer program product according to claim 33,
wherein the receiver identification comprises a location description, and
the determining step comprises comparing the location description to a
10 current location of the device.

35. The computer program product according to claim 34, wherein the
location description comprises at least one of a tower identification, a network
identification, a zip code, an area code and a time zone.

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36. A method for controlling an electronic device, the method comprising
the steps of:
receiving at least one of data and voice information from the device;
and
20 transmitting a message to the device, the message including a
command to enter a low power mode.